

Chief Administrative Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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June 4, 2001

To:

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor

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Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Supervisor Don Knabe

From:

David E. Janssen

Chief Administrative Office

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Budget Conference Committee Report No. 2

Today's Budget Conference Committee started off with discussions centered around the amount of the budget reserve. Senator Steve Peace indicated that the reserve should be closer to \$3 billion, while Republican conferees, Assembly Member George Runner and Senator Dick Ackerman, believe the amount should be between \$3 billion-\$4 billion. Assembly Member Tony Cardenas said that staff is working on the issue. Senator Peace repeated his concerns about the Assembly's desire to fund Assembly bills through the budget process, which circumvents the legislative process in the Senate.

In general, the Conference Committee dealt with health and social service issues that did not generate controversy. A number of items were left open for later discussion. For example, Assembly Member Cardenas urged adoption of a County-supported issue to provide \$50 million for trauma centers. He told members that most facilities are "hanging on by a thread" and deserve state funding. Assembly Member Runner indicated that the Republicans have identified trauma center funding as one of their top budget priorities. Although the Senators expressed some interest, no one would commit to a \$50 million funding level at this point. The Senate conferees also suggested opening the fund to all hospital emergency departments.

Another example of an issue that was held open is the Assembly's proposal to withhold \$50 million from the County's Social Services Realignment Account unless the County pays IHSS workers a higher wage rate. All CalWORKs and Foster Care issues have been left open pending legislative working groups' development of a CalWORKs package and a Foster Care package.

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The Conference Committee recessed at 5:00 p.m. and is scheduled to return at 7:30 p.m.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK DS:ML:zo

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
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